TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 24, 2001 LB 543, 611

And what we're doing in Nebraska isn't broad their families. enough to be able to get to some of those issues for some of the It's a penny saved is a penny earned, and in this prisoners. case research shows a dollar spent will have a \$7 return if you spend it on treatment. So I'm hopeful that in the next few years we will take a serious look at beefing up our community corrections options. And we need a comprehensive look at that and hope you'll support Senator Dwite Pedersen's bill which will get us on the road to looking at that. So I think while Senator Chambers may want to take this farther than the rest of us, it does bring us to a point in our budget discussion where we should be talking about the direction we need to head and the reform that needs to be happening. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. just want to mention a couple more things. Please, please take look at your Agency 46 in your budget book and see how much Corrections costs us. We're talking about some real money. I ask when I bring LB 611 on the floor that we talk about it and at least take a look at where some of this operations is going and get the Legislature more involved. And I'm real encouraged by all of you that have come to me and those that have asked that are willing to work on that. I also ask you to please get a hold of this article that was in the Lincoln Journal Star about walls and wire about Tecumseh. I find it very interesting that the Department of Corrections in a recent tour that we had of the youth facility in Omaha were so concerned about having young people incarcerated with the older prisoners and now they want to hire them same young people, not the same ones that were incarcerated, but that same age group to work with older incarcerated people. I want to emphasize that, yes, there are violent criminals and people that we do not need to have out in our society and probably should never be out. I don't have any problem with that. But when we have a violent crime, it is so blown out of proportion that we put all prisoners in the same They all have not committed violent crimes. How often they do, however, get long sentences, and some of them should have long sentences, but they come out with no change. Senator Chambers alluded to the part of they make good employees. We